

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

GAY MARRIAGE



California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger speaks during a meeting of the Bay Area Council in Santa Clara, Calif., Friday, Aug. 6, 2010.

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SPORTS NEWS

WAYWARD DRIVER



Tiger Woods reacts while coming off the 12th green during the second round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio on Friday, Aug. 6, 2010.

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Kagan celebrates with Obama, to be sworn Saturday

JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A beaming Elena Kagan and President Barack Obama on Friday celebrated her imminent ascension to the U.S. Supreme Court with jokes and references to the irreverent sense of humor she put on display during her Senate confirmation hearing. An audience at the White House, filled with Kagan's friends and extended family, along with Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Anthony Kennedy, shouted with joy and applauded as Obama introduced "Justice Elena Kagan."

Kagan, 50, holds the title of

U.S. solicitor general or the government's top lawyer for one more day.

"While she may be feeling a twinge of sadness about giving up the title of general — a cool title — I think we can agree that Justice Elena Kagan has a pretty nice ring to it," Obama said of his second successful appointment to the court.

The Senate on Thursday confirmed Kagan as the high court's 112th justice. She will be the fourth woman ever to serve there.

Kagan will be sworn in Saturday at the Supreme Court as the successor to retired Justice John Paul Stevens.

Continued on Next Page



In this Aug. 4, 2010 file photo, Pakistani police officers examine a burnt car at the site of a suicide bombing in Peshawar, Pakistan. Not for the first time, Pakistan appears to be teetering on the edge with a government unable to cope. Floods are ravaging a country at war with al-Qaida and the Taliban. Riots, slayings and arson are gripping the largest city.

Associated Press

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President Barack Obama joins Elena Kagan for a ceremony to mark her confirmation to become the next Supreme Court justice, Friday, Aug. 6, 2010, in the East Room of the White House in Washington. Kagan is the first Supreme Court nominee in nearly 40 years with no experience as a judge, and her addition will mark the first time that three women will serve on the nine-member court together. She's to be sworn in tomorrow as the successor to retired Justice John Paul Stevens.

Associated Press

Crises test leadership of US-allied Pakistan

CHRIS BRUMMITT,

Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Not for the first time, Pakistan appears to be teetering on the edge with a government unable to cope. Floods are ravaging a country at war with al-Qaida and the Taliban. Riots, slayings and arson are gripping the largest city. Suggestions are flying that the intelligence agency is aiding Afghan insurgents. The crises raise questions about a nation crucial to U.S. hopes of success in Afghanistan and to the global campaign against Islamist militancy.

Despite the recent headlines, few here see Pakistan in danger of collapse or being overrun by militants — a fear that had been expressed before the army fought back against insurgents advancing from their base in the Swat Valley early last year.

Continued on Page 6



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U.S. solicitor general Elena Kagan smiles in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Friday, Aug. 6, 2010, during a ceremony with President Barack Obama, after her confirmation as Supreme Court justice by the Senate on Thursday.

Associated Press

KAGAN

Continued from Front Page

She is not expected to alter the ideological balance of the court, where Stevens was considered a leader of the

liberals confronting a usually conservative-leaning court that rules on some of the most divisive issues in American life. She is the first Supreme Court nominee in nearly 40

years with no experience as a judge, and her swearing-in will mark the first time in history that three women will serve together on the nine-member court, where justices

often serve for life.

Obama said senators got a “pretty good look” during the confirmation process at Kagan, who met individually with more than 80 senators and testified for a total of 17 hours. “They got a good sense of her judicial philosophy, her commitment to the rule of law, her rich understanding of our Constitution and, of course, where she can be found on Christmas Day,” Obama said, alluding to one of her jokes. Kagan showed glimpses of her dry sense of humor during the hearings last month, disarming Republicans and Democrats alike with clever comebacks that lightened the often tense proceedings.

When Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham stumped her by asking where she was on Christmas Day — part of a series of questions on the Nigerian man accused of trying to use a bomb hidden in his underwear to bring down a Detroit-bound airliner Dec. 25 — Kagan recovered quickly.

“You know, like all Jews,” she

quipped, “I was probably at a Chinese restaurant.”

Speaking at the White House on Friday, Kagan mostly took a more serious tone.

She thanked Obama for trusting her enough to nominate her to the Supreme Court and pledged to fulfill an “obligation to uphold the rights and liberties afforded by our remarkable Constitution” and “to provide what the inscription on the Supreme Court building promises: equal justice under law.”

Chief Justice John Roberts will swear in Kagan twice on Saturday. She will recite one oath as prescribed by the Constitution during a private ceremony in a conference room at the court with only her family present. Roberts will then administer a second oath, taken by judges, with Kagan’s family and friends and reporters present.

Kagan will not be formally installed as a justice until Oct. 1 in a courtroom ceremony at the start of the court’s new term. □



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AP Exclusive: CIA whisked detainees from Gitmo

ADAM GOLDMAN,
MATT APUZZO,
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP)—Four of the nation's most highly valued al-Qaida terrorists were moved secretly to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 2003, years earlier than has been disclosed, then were whisked back into overseas prisons before the U.S. Supreme Court could give them access to lawyers, The Associated Press has learned. The transfer allowed the United States to interrogate the detainees in CIA "black sites" for two more years without allowing them to speak with attorneys or human rights observers or challenge their detention in U.S. courts. Had they remained at the Guantanamo Bay prison for just three more months, they would have been afforded those rights.

"This was all just a shell game to hide detainees from the courts," said Jonathan Hafetz, a Seton Hall University law professor who has represented several detainees.

Removing them from Guantanamo Bay underscores how worried President George W. Bush's administration was that the Supreme Court might lift the veil of secrecy on the detention program. It also shows how insistent the Bush administration was that terrorists must be held outside the U.S. court system.

Years later, the program's legacy continues to complicate President Barack Obama's efforts to prosecute the prisoners suspected of being behind the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The arrival and speedy departure from Guantanamo were pieced together by the AP using flight records and interviews with current and



This Boeing 737, seen in Glasgow, Scotland on Sept. 7, 2003, has been identified by European investigators as a plane used for CIA rendition flights. Flight records and interviews with The Associated Press show the plane brought at least four high-value terrorists into Guantanamo Bay in 2003, years earlier than has been previously disclosed. The CIA whisked them back into secret overseas prisons before the Supreme Court could grant them access to lawyers.

Associated Press

former U.S. officials and others familiar with the CIA's detention program. All spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the program.

Top officials at the White House, Justice Department, Pentagon and CIA consulted on the prisoner transfer, which was so secretive that even many people close to the CIA detention program were kept in the dark.

CIA spokesman George Little said: "The so-called black sites and enhanced interrogation methods, which were administered on the basis of guidance from the Department of Justice, are a thing of the past."

Before dawn on Sept. 24, 2003, a white, unmarked Boeing 737 landed at Guantanamo Bay. At least four al-Qaida operatives, some of the CIA's biggest captures to date, were aboard: Abu Zubaydah, Abd al-Nashiri, Ramzi Binalshibh

and Mustafa al-Hawsawi.

Binalshibh and al-Hawsawi helped plan the 9/11 attacks. Al-Nashiri was the mastermind of the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole. Zubaydah was an al-Qaida travel facilitator. The admitted terrorists had spent months overseas enduring some of the harshest interrogation tactics in U.S. history.

By late summer 2003, the CIA believed the men had revealed their best secrets. The agency needed somewhere to hold them, but no longer needed to conduct prolonged interrogations.

The U.S. naval facility at Guantanamo Bay seemed a good fit. Bush had selected the first six people to face military tribunals there, and a federal appeals court unanimously ruled that detainees could not use U.S. courts to challenge their imprisonment.

Also, the CIA had just

constructed a new facility, which would become known as Strawberry Fields, separate from the main prison at Guantanamo Bay.

The agency's overseas prison network, meanwhile, was in flux. A jail in Thailand known as Cat's Eye closed in December 2002, and in the fall of 2003 the CIA was preparing to shutter its facility in Poland and open a new one in Romania. Human rights investigators and journalists were asking questions. The CIA needed to reshuffle its prisoners.

The prisoner transfer flight, outlined in documents and interviews, visited five CIA prisons in Afghanistan, Poland, Romania, Morocco and Guantanamo Bay. The flight plan was so poorly thought out, some in the CIA derisively compared it to a five-card straight revealing the program to outsiders: Five

stops, five secret facilities, all documented.

The flight logs were compiled by European authorities investigating the CIA program.

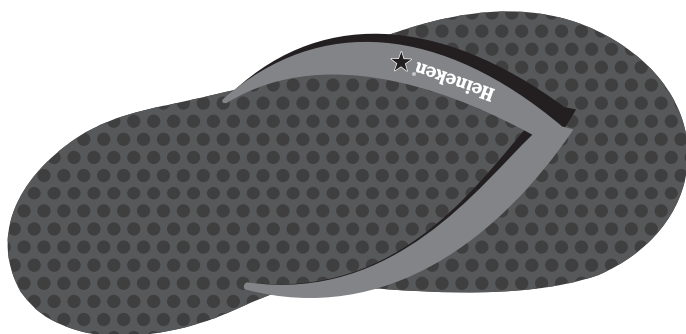
The flight started in Kabul, The Afghan capital, where the CIA picked up al-Hawsawi at the secret prison known as the Salt Pit. The Boeing 737 then flew to Szymany, Poland, where a CIA team picked up 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and took him to Bucharest, Romania, to the new prison, code-named Britelite.

Next it was on to Rabat, Morocco, where the Moroccans ran an interrogation facility used by the CIA.

At 8:10 p.m. on Sept. 23, 2003, the Boeing 737 took off from a runway in Rabat. On board were al-Hawsawi, al-Nashiri, Zubaydah and Binalshibh. At 1 a.m. the following day, the plane touched down at Guantanamo.

The existence of a CIA prison at Guantanamo was reported in 2004, but it has always been unclear who was there. Unlike the overseas black sites, there was no waterboarding or other harsh interrogation tactics at Strawberry Fields, officials said. It was a holding facility, a place for some of the key figures in the 9/11 attacks to await trial.

Not long after they arrived, things began unraveling. In November, over the administration's objections, the Supreme Court agreed to consider whether Guantanamo Bay detainees could sue in U.S. courts. The administration had worried for several years that this might happen. In 2001, Justice Department lawyers Patrick Philbin and John Yoo wrote a memo saying courts were unlikely to grant detainees such rights. □



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GOP cautiously confident of big gains this fall



Republican Party chairman Michael Steele, center, talks with Republican state leaders and volunteers during a visit to the Colorado GOP headquarters in the Greenwood Village south of Denver on Thursday, July 8, 2010. The outspoken chairman's appearance in Colorado will be his first since he came under fire for calling the 9-year-old conflict in Afghanistan a mistaken "war of Obama's choosing." Steele later issued a statement stressing his support for U.S. troops.

Associated Press

By LIZ SIDOTI

AP National Political Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The head of the Republican Party on Friday urged members to step up their efforts for the fall elections amid cautious confidence about the GOP winning several governorships and perhaps seizing control of Congress from President Barack Obama's party.

"We can't rest now," GOP chairman Michael Steele told the Republican National Committee. "Everything

we've been doing, and all that we must do, needs to be ramped up and maxed out in the next three months."

"Sleep? What's that? We can't sleep until November 3rd," he added.

Three months before the elections, it was all business and little celebration as the 168-member committee met this week to finalize Tampa, Fla., as the 2012 GOP convention city and set the presidential primary calendar that will begin in February of

that year.

Unlike in years past, no White House hopefuls showed up. And Republicans attending the meeting were sober about the GOP's prospects in November; a single sign said: "Playing to win in 2010."

Steele did, however, try to rile up the committee and got a standing ovation with calls to fire House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Wearing a red "Fire Pelosi" cap, he announced that the RNC would sponsor a "Fire Pelosi" bus tour this fall.

"Get on the bus," he yelled as a cardboard bus was pushed out onto the stage from which he spoke. It said: "Need a job? Fire Pelosi."

The mostly serious tone of the meeting reflected the challenge Republicans have ahead of them as they seek to take advantage of conditions that at first blush seem ripe for a power shift in Democratic-controlled Washington.

"We've got to start talking about issues," said Pat Brady, the state party chairman in Illinois. "By mid-September, we can't just be the party of 'We aren't the Democrats because people are really fed up.'"

No one doubts the GOP will win some Democratic-held congressional seats.

The president's party nearly always loses seats during the first midterm elections of the presidency. The GOP rank and file also is energized and independent voters are leaning toward Republicans.

The question is whether Republicans have it together enough to gain 40 seats in the House and 10 in the Senate to take control of Capitol Hill — with less money than the Democrats, without the White House bully pulpit and as tea party activists expose a fissure between conservatives and moderates in the GOP.

Although less confident of emerging with control of Congress, committee members almost uniformly said they expected Republicans to have a huge year in this year's 37 gubernatorial races, with many suggesting the GOP will emerge from the elections in control of a comfortable majority of states.

The RNC's internal politics hovered over the meeting.

Steele's 18-month tenure has been rocky, and some committee members privately grouched about him. There also was a recent flare-up over spending practices, with the RNC's treasurer accusing Steele of hiding more than \$7 million in debt to inflate the party's finances and mislead

donors.

After some debate, the committee approved a plan to make the nomination process start in February 2012 despite concerns among some Republicans that it would put their nominee at a disadvantage against President Barack Obama if he seeks re-election.

Under the plan, Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina will be permitted to hold their contests in February, states that divide up delegates proportionally will vote in March and winner-take-all states will go in April.

Two-thirds of the committee needed to approve the plan. Of the 144 votes cast, 103 voted in favor of the plan — enough for adoption. Critics had worried about extending the GOP's process when Obama likely won't face a primary; advocates said the plan would add order to a chaotic process and prevent a national primary.

Afterward, Steele told reporters that the change was necessary because "2008 was just a monster of a primary process."

"You had so many states leapfrogging over each other," Steele said. "We needed to bring some order to the process." □



Gov. Schwarzenegger calls for same-sex weddings

PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Lawyers for gay couples, Gov. Schwarzenegger and Attorney General Jerry Brown filed legal motions Friday telling a federal judge that allowing same-sex marriages to resume immediately in California was the right thing to do.

The motions came two days after U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker struck down California's voter-approved gay marriage ban as unconstitutional.

In his 136-page decision, Walker said gay marriages should begin immediately. But later Wednesday, he agreed to suspend weddings until he could consider the legal arguments he ordered to be filed by Friday.

Opponents of same-sex marriage said they want Proposition 8 to stay in effect until their appeal of Walker's ruling is decided by higher courts.

They argued in court papers filed earlier this week that resuming gay marriage now would cause legal chaos if the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals or U.S. Supreme Court eventually reverse Walker's ruling.

The 9th Circuit received the case on Wednesday, hours after Walker issued his decision.

On Friday, Schwarzenegger and Brown were the first to weigh in on the issue and both urged an immediate resumption of gay marriage. The legal team of David Boies and Ted Olson, who filed the lawsuit on behalf of two gay couples that led to Walker's ruling, also submitted a motion in conjunction with the city of San Francisco, another plaintiff.

They all argued that since the judge ruled that California's marriage ban was illegal, gay couples should be able to marry now.

Boies and Olson said gay couples "will continue to suffer irreparable harm if Proposition 8's irrational deprivation of their constitutional rights is

prolonged."

It was unclear when the judge would issue a ruling on the possible resumption of same-sex marriages. Even if he does clear the way for same-sex couples to wed, lawyers for sponsors of Proposition 8 plan to ask the federal appeals court

for an emergency order to prevent that from happening.

The governor and attorney general almost always defend state laws when they are challenged. But in this case, both refused to participate in fighting the lawsuit aimed at overturning the ban. □



California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger speaks during a meeting of the Bay Area Council in Santa Clara, Calif., Friday, Aug. 6, 2010.

Associated Press

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People affected by flooding jostle for relief supplies in Nowshera, northwest Pakistan, Friday, Aug. 6, 2010. Stormy weather grounded helicopters carrying emergency supplies to Pakistan's flood-ravaged northwest Friday as the worst monsoon rains in decades brought more destruction to a nation already reeling from Islamist violence.

Associated Press

U.S. ALLIED PAKISTAN Continued from front Page

From its birth in 1947, Pakistan has been dogged by military coups, corrupt and inefficient leaders, natural disasters, assassinations and

civil unrest. Through it all, Pakistan has not prospered — but it survives.

“There is plenty to be worried about, but also indications that when push comes to shove the state is able to respond,” said

Mosharraf Zaidi, an analyst and writer who has advised foreign governments on aid missions to Pakistan.

“The military has many weaknesses, but it has done a reasonable job in relief efforts. There have been gaps in the response. But this is a developing a country, right?” The recent flooding came at a sensitive time for Pakistan, with Western doubts over its loyalty heightened by the leaking of U.S. military documents that strengthened suspicions that the security establishment was supporting Afghan insurgents while receiving billions in Western aid.

With few easy choices, the United States has made it clear it intends to stick with Pakistan. Indeed, it has used the floods to demonstrate its commitment to the country, rushing emergency assistance

and dispatching helicopters to ferry the goods.

The Pakistani government's response to the floods has been sharply criticized at home, especially since President Asif Ali Zardari departed for a European tour. With so many Pakistanis suffering, the trip has left the already weak and unpopular leader even more vulnerable politically.

The flooding was triggered by what meteorologists said were “once-in-a-century” rains. The worst affected area is the northwest, a stronghold for Islamist militants. Parts of the northwest have seen army offensives over the last two years.

Unless the people are helped quickly and the region is rebuilt, anger at the government could translate into support for the militants. At least one charity with suspected links to a militant outfit has established relief camps there.

The extremism threat was highlighted by a suicide bombing in the main northwestern town of Peshawar on Wednesday. The bomber killed the head of the Frontier Constabulary, a paramilitary force in the northwest at the forefront of the terror fight.

With authorities concentrating on flood relief, some officials have expressed concern that militants could regroup.

The city of Karachi has seen militant violence and is rumored to be a hiding place for top Taliban and al-Qaida fighters. It has also been plagued by regular bouts of political and ethnic bloodletting since the 1980s, though it has been calmer in recent years.

The latest violence erupted after the assassination of a leading member of the city's ruling party. More than 70 people have been killed in revenge attacks since then, paralyzing parts of the city of 16 million people.

While serious, the unrest does not yet pose an immediate threat to the stability of the country. Although the U.S. is unpopular, there is little public support for the hardline Islamist rule espoused by the Taliban and their allies. Their small movement has been unable to control any Pakistani territory beyond the northwest, home to only about 20 million of the country's

175 million people.

Zardari's political party has a solid majority in parliament, but the storm of criticism over the handling of the floods can only add to calls for early elections. That the army — which has ruled the country for close to half of its 63 years — is playing such a leading role is also not going unnoticed.

“I think leaders should not look at headlines,” Zardari said Friday in London when asked by The Associated Press to respond to the criticism. “They should wait for history to pass judgment.”

His aides say the prime minister and the Cabinet are in charge and that he has important state business in France and Britain.

But that has done nothing to stop political opponents, newspaper columnists and ordinary Pakistanis from piling on scorn.

His decision to visit a family-owned 16th-century chateau in Normandy, France, when so many Pakistanis are homeless has triggered particular anger. “Zardari visits French chateau as floods rage,” read a headline in the anti-government daily The News, next to a picture of his helicopter touching down in the gardens of the chateau, set among hills and trees.

“Just when the president was thought by many in Pakistan to have secured his position, and to have matured a bit, he goes and blows it,” Ayaz Amir, a respected parliamentarian, wrote in a newspaper column Friday. “Any fool could have told the president not to visit his chateau because it was bound to draw fire. But he just couldn't resist it.”

The revelations by online whistle-blower site WikiLeaks have renewed focus on Pakistan's powerful military establishment and its long-suspected links with Afghan insurgents. Despite the civilian government, foreign and defense policy still remain the almost exclusive domain of generals. Analysts say Pakistan is maintaining links with powerful Afghan insurgent factions like the Haqqani network because it is hedging against a U.S. withdrawal in Afghanistan and wants to ensure that the next regime is friendly to it — and hostile to India. □



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American mom charged with murdering 3 children

BEN McCONVILLE

Associated Press Writer

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — Scottish police on Friday charged the American mother of three children who were found dead in an Edinburgh town house with their murder. Theresa Riggi, 46, was arrested late Friday after police completed autopsies on her children: 8-year-old twins Augustino and Gianluca and their 5-year-old sister Cecilia.

The children were discovered after a gas explosion Wednesday at the town house, but are not thought to have died as a result of the blast. Riggi is hospitalized in serious but stable condition after apparently falling from an upper story of the house on the same day.

“Due to the medical condition of the accused, it is not at this time known when

she will appear in court,” a police spokesman said on condition of anonymity in line with policy.

Riggi and her husband, American oil industry executive Pasquale Riggi, 46, of Colorado, were getting divorced and contesting the custody of their children. Scottish authorities said the couple were due to attend court hearings in the case this week, and on Tuesday a judge raised concerns over the children’s safety when their mother failed to appear for the divorce proceedings.

Police said they are investigating the circumstances of the deaths and have interviewed the children’s father, but confirmed he is not a suspect in the case.

They said the autopsies on the children were completed Friday. No

details were disclosed, but a report has been submitted to prosecutors, police said. Pasquale Riggi described his anguish over the death of his children.

“Our family is struggling to come to terms with the immense and tragic loss of three beautiful children,” he said in a statement issued by Edinburgh’s Lothian and Borders police department. His wife and the children went missing from the family’s home in Aberdeen, a port town about 100 miles north of Edinburgh, on July 21, prompting police to launch a search.

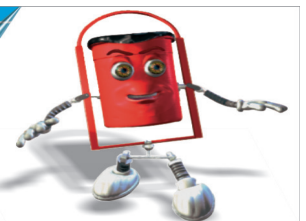
Pasquale Riggi grew up in Colorado, where he attended Denver’s Regis Jesuit High School, graduating in 1982. He serves as an executive with Royal Dutch Shell PLC in Scotland, and had previously worked with the company in the Netherlands.



This undated image made available by Grampian Police in Aberdeen, Scotland, shows Theresa Riggi, 46, with her three children, twin boys, Gianluca and Augustino, no left to right orientation available, and daughter Cecilia. Pasquale Riggi, 46, an oil executive from Colorado, described his grief Friday Aug. 6, 2010, after police launched an inquiry into the mystery death of his three children at a town house in Edinburgh. The children were discovered following a gas explosion, but are not thought to have died as a result of the blast. Their mother is in a serious but stable condition in hospital after apparently falling from an upper story of the Edinburgh house. Police said they are investigating the circumstances of the deaths and have interviewed the children’s father, but confirmed he is not a suspect in the case.

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UAE: Japanese tanker attacked in Persian Gulf

MICHAEL CASEY

Associated Press Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United Arab Emirates said Friday that a Japanese oil tanker was hit by an explosives-laden dinghy in the Persian Gulf in what would be the first attack in the strategic waterway where millions of barrels of oil are transported each day.

The report — which came days after an al-Qaida-linked group claimed responsibility for attacking the vessel — raised fears about the vulnerability of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping lane for many petroleum exporting countries.

It was the latest in what has been a series of conflicting accounts of what happened to the M. Star supertanker, which was damaged as it entered the Strait of Hormuz, a transit point for about 40 percent of oil shipped by tankers worldwide.

Al-Qaida has carried out attacks on oil infrastructure on land in nearby Saudi Arabia, as well as a 2002 suicide bombing of the Limburg off the coast of Yemen and the 2000 bombing of the USS



In this photo released by the Emirates News Agency (WAM), damage is seen on the side of the 'M. Star' oil supertanker offshore Fujairah port in the United Arab Emirates Thursday, July 29, 2010. The chief official at the port where a Japanese tanker was docked a day after it was damaged at the mouth of the Persian Gulf said Thursday investigators now believe the ship was involved in a collision, backing away from an earlier theory that natural causes were to blame. But the ship's owner refused to speculate on what had set off Wednesday's incident, which it described as an explosion on the tanker, until it had more information. The company initially said it suspected the ship had been attacked as it entered the tense Strait of Hormuz. The possibility of a deliberate attack has not been ruled out.

Associated Press

Cole in the Yemeni port of Aden.

But if the UAE report is confirmed, the July 28 incident would be the first militant attack in the strait, a narrow

chokepoint between Oman and Iran. For years, fears have been high that the waterway could be the site of conflict between the United States and Iran, but the reported attack

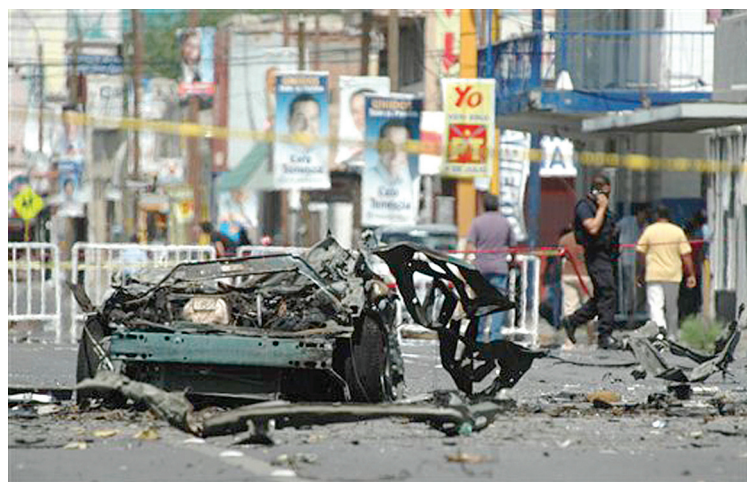
underscored concerns that militant groups could target civilian vessels to foment economic instability.

While the ship's owner, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, initially said it

suspected an attack, others said it was hit by a large wave or was involved in a collision with another vessel. A crew member was injured and the tanker sustained a square-shaped dent on the rear side of the hull. "The attack is not a major attack in terms of its target. But the geography is really worrying," said Mustafa Alani, director of national security and terrorism studies for the Dubai-based Gulf Research Center. "Now, they are able to attack outside the Strait of Hormuz where 17 million barrels of oil a day are transported. The fact that they are able to do this is a wake up call."

The Emirati state news agency WAM said Friday that a boat piled with explosives struck the tanker — the first official word that the incident was an attack.

WAM, quoting an unnamed government official, said traces of homemade explosives were found on the hull of the tanker. Investigators believe a small boat with explosives had approached the tanker, indicating the vessel had been "subjected to a terror attack," the news agency said. □



The remains of a vehicle are cordoned off in a street in the northern border city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Friday July 16, 2010. Mexican investigators ran forensic tests to determine whether drug gangs used a car bomb in an attack on police patrol trucks that killed two officers and wounded nine people on Thursday. A car bomb would mark an unprecedented escalation of Mexico's drug war and confirm long-standing fears that the cartels are turning to explosives in their fight against security forces.

MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Investigators said Friday there was an explosive device aboard a car that blew up outside police headquarters in the border state of Tamaulipas, the second car-bomb attack

against law enforcement in less than a month.

Authorities are still working to determine what explosives were used, who planted the bomb and how it was detonated, according to a state police spokesman who was not authorized to be quoted by

Associated Press

name.

No one was hurt by Thursday's blast in a parking lot outside a police station near Ciudad Victoria, the state capital, but two police vehicles were damaged.

On July 15, a car bomb killed a policeman, a doctor and a kidnap victim used as a decoy in the border city of Ciudad Juarez, across from El Paso, Texas. A drug gang has been blamed for that attack.

Also Friday, authorities in the western state of Sinaloa announced the discovery of nine bodies in a clandestine grave believed to be linked to drug gangs.

The bodies were found in a pit in the coastal city of Mazatlan, said Martin Gastelum, a

spokesman for the Sinaloa state prosecutors' office. An anonymous tip led police to the site.

Four of the bodies were missing their heads, and the victims appear to have been killed anywhere from a month to a year ago.

Meanwhile, the Mexican navy reported that four suspected gunmen for the Zetas drug gang were killed in a clash with marines in Tamaulipas on Thursday.

Nine assault rifles and three grenades were seized at the scene, the navy said.

And the federal Public Safety Department said in a report Friday that a total of 2,076 federal, state and local police officers have been killed

in attacks or executions by drug gangs since December 2006, when President Felipe Calderon launched an offensive against the cartels. That figure is part of the total of more than 28,000 killings in drug-related violence in that period.

The federal department has criticized the lack of training and coordination among municipal police forces, which make up about 39 percent of all officers in Mexico.

It said 68 percent of municipal officers in Mexico have only a grade-school education, and almost two-thirds earn salaries of \$315 per month or less.

The department has proposed bringing police forces under a more unified command. □

Mexico confirms car had explosive device aboard

Mine collapse traps 34 copper workers in Chile

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Rescuers scrambled Friday to dig out 34 copper mine workers trapped nearly 1,000 feet below ground after a tunnel caved in.

Authorities were hopeful the miners managed to reach an underground shelter that contains oxygen, food and other supplies after the collapse Thursday afternoon at the San Jose mine in northern Chile.

A day later, however, attempts to contact them through chimneys and vents have been unsuccessful.

Labor Minister Camila Merino said the shelter has enough oxygen to last the workers two more days — though other miners said there was only enough for another 24 hours. Rescuers were able to descend only about 200 feet (64 meters) into the mine, and were forced to pause the rescue effort for hours while they waited for heavy digging and other special equipment to be brought in.

“So far attempts to access the mine have been unsuccessful,” Merino said.

In 2007, an explosion at the San Jose mine killed three workers.

It is owned by private mining company San Esteban. □



Relatives and coworkers wait outside a mine that collapsed leaving some 34 miners trapped in Copiapo, northern Chile, late Thursday, Aug. 5, 2010. The cause of the accident is still unknown and the difficult access to the mine had complicated rescue efforts, officials said

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Bodyguard: Anna Nicole's boyfriend supplied drugs



Dr Khnstine Erosshevich eats lunch at the courthouse in Los Angeles on Wednesday, Aug 4, 2010. Two doctors violated their responsibility to protect Anna Nicole Smith by prescribing massive amounts of drugs with the connivance of her lawyer-boyfriend, even though they knew she was addicted to painkillers, a prosecutor argued Wednesday. Howard K. Stern, Dr. Sandeep Kapoor and Dr. Khristine Eroshevich, are accused of providing vast amounts of powerful opiates and sedatives to Anna Nicole Smith under multiple names.

(AP Photo/Nick Ut)

By LINDA DEUTSCH,
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES — Anna Nicole Smith's bodyguard testified Friday that he saw her boyfriend and a psychiatrist supply the Playboy model with drugs as she slipped into addiction in the months before her overdose death. Smith would take 20 pills at a time, including Valium, Maurice Brighthaupt testified. He also said he sometimes saw Smith's boyfriend, defendant Howard K. Stern, give her the pills from a dish she kept by her bed.

"She was a hurt lady," Brighthaupt said. Stern, Dr. Sandeep Kapoor and Dr. Khristine Eroshevich have pleaded not guilty to conspiring to supply Smith with vast amounts of powerful opiates and sedatives. They are not charged with causing her death. Brighthaupt testified that Eroshevich, who was Smith's psychiatrist, would travel from Los Angeles to the Bahamas to bring prescription medication to Smith. He saw Smith being injected with drugs and swigging from

a bottle of chloral hydrate, a powerful sleeping medication that Eroshovich delivered, the bodyguard said.

Brighthaupt, a Miami firefighter and paramedic, unsuccessfully tried to revive the 39-year-old Smith as she lay lifeless in a Hollywood, Fla., hotel room in February 2007.

Brighthaupt provided security for Smith on and off for three years and said the model used drugs almost from the day he was hired in 2003.

"Anna had a bag of meds she would take with her," he said. After she took the medication, he said, "she was tired a lot. She would sleep a lot. But when she was up, she was a happy, fun-loving young lady who liked the attention and enjoyed her fans."

Smith would prepare for awards show appearances by downing pills with expensive champagne, he said.

She became visibly impaired and in 2004, "I remember once having to carry her onto the bus because she couldn't walk," Brighthaupt said.

Brighthaupt often tried to discourage her from taking so much medicine.

"That was my job — to protect her from herself," he said. □



In this Aug. 1, 2010 photo, Nashaun Butler of the Little Phunk Boys practices backstage before competing in the World Hip Hop Dance Championships in Las Vegas.

(AP Photo/Isaac Brekken)

Dance crews lock in a livelihood through hip-hop

By NARDINE SAAD,
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Matt Nguyen's career options once amounted to hair cutting or maybe military service. But the 21-year-old dancer nicknamed "Dumbo" now makes \$4,000 a month cutting up dance floors and battling fellow hip-hop crews.

And after propelling to fame through a cable TV reality competition, Nguyen and his buddies from Southern California think their new career could last longer than the latest two-step.

"We used to just dance for fun," said Nguyen, the frontman for Poreotics, a hip-hop troupe featured in Justin Bieber's latest music video as well as all over YouTube.

"We didn't think it was going to be that big, but it's our life now," he said, as he waited to rehearse at the recent World Hip-Hop Dance Championships in Las Vegas.

Poreotics represented the United States as back-to-back national champions. Nearly 200 crews from 28 countries went toe-to-toe across three divisions, with an all-women crew from New Zealand taking top honors and Poreotics placing second overall.

Dancers ranging from ages 5 to 45 convened at the Red Rock Resort waiting to bust a move in front of their global colleagues during the preliminaries. Crews in red football jerseys, blue space suits and custom-made T-shirts hyped each other up and held impromptu rehearsals in the hotel's halls. □

Judge grants Sandra Bullock restraining order

LOS ANGELES — A judge granted Sandra Bullock a three-year restraining order Friday against a man who has a history of stalking her and allegedly traveled cross-country to try to meet the actress after being released from a mental hospital.

Thomas James Weldon was ordered to refrain from trying to contact the actress or Louis Bardo Bullock, an infant boy the Academy Award-winner is in the process of adopting.

The restraining order also protects the children of Bullock's ex-husband Jesse James. The children occasionally stay with the

actress.

Bullock first obtained a restraining order against Weldon in 2003. The order was extended but expired last year because Weldon was being held in a Tennessee mental hospital.

After his release earlier this year, he traveled to Wyoming in an alleged attempt to meet the actress, according to Bullock's attorney Ed McPherson.

Weldon was committed indefinitely to a state mental hospital in Wyoming on Tuesday.

"It's obvious that this fixation



FILE - In this March 7, 2010 file photo, Sandra Bullock arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar party in West Hollywood, Calif.

(AP Photo/Peter Kramer, File)

on her has not changed despite seven years in the hospital in Tennessee," McPherson said. Bullock did not attend Friday's hearing. □

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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY



The American International Group (AIG) building in New York's financial district in this March 16, 2009 file photo.

REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

AIG starts talks on govt exit, tops Street view

By Paritosh Bansal

NEW YORK (Reuters) – American International Group Inc's quarterly results topped Wall Street's expectations on Friday, and the chief executive said the insurer is actively looking to repay its enormous taxpayer bailout.

AIG, whose shares rose as much as 5.7 percent on Friday, is nearly 80 percent owned by the U.S. government after a \$182.3 billion bailout. It also sees converting the Treasury Department's preferred stake into common shares as one option to eventually end the government role in the insurer, CEO Robert Benmosche told Reuters.

"The size of that and how that will work still needs to be thought through," Benmosche said in a telephone interview. "But the key to having that option is that we have to have a company that is investment grade on its own. So we are shooting for a single A."

Benmosche's comments come as the company said that in recent weeks it had begun talks about a strategy to "allow the government to exit its owner relationship." Details of a planned timetable for the exit were not given.

AIG, once the world's largest insurer, nearly collapsed in September 2008 from credit default swaps that left it on the hook for tens of billions of dollars in payouts to some of the biggest U.S. and European banks.

After the government rescue, it has been divesting assets to repay taxpayers, who are still owed more than \$100 billion.

As of June 30, AIG had outstanding net borrowings under a Federal Reserve Bank of New York credit facility of \$20.5 billion, plus accrued interest and fees of \$6 billion. The Treasury held another \$49.1 billion in preferred shares.

AIG will begin negotiating an exit of the Treasury's equity stake once it has clarified how the Fed's credit facility will be paid down, Benmosche said.

AIG is already on its way to divesting some assets to pay down the government debt.

Benmosche said AIG was working to do a public offering of its Asian life unit AIA as "quickly as possible."

AIG revived plans for an IPO of the unit after a failed sale to Britain's Prudential Plc, which paid AIG a termination fee of \$228 million. □

Stocks retreat after disappointing jobs report

By STEPHEN BERNARD,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Stocks and interest rates dropped Friday after a disappointing employment report renewed concerns about a slowdown in economic growth.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 140 points in midday trading. Broader indexes also fell more than 1 percent.

The Labor Department said 131,000 jobs were cut last month, though that was primarily tied to layoffs of temporary census workers. The unemployment rate remained unchanged at 9.5 percent. Economists polled by Thomson Reuters had forecast 65,000 jobs would be cut last month and the unemployment rate would rise to 9.6 percent. Because of the cuts to census workers, investors were largely focused on private sector jobs, which account for most jobs in the country. Private employers added just 71,000 jobs, well short of the 90,000 expected by economists.

The Labor Department also sharply revised lower the number of jobs private employers added in June. The department now says just 31,000 private sector jobs were added in June, compared with a previous estimate of 83,000.

"The Labor Department numbers the last two, three months show the economy has hit a soft spot," said Michael Strauss, chief economist and market strategist at Commonfund.

Persistently high unemployment is the most significant drag on the U.S. economy, and has been a key focus for investors. Even people who are employed have been slowing down their spending, which hurts the economy even more. Economists say that about



Amanda Anderson, right, a trader for Kellogg Capital Markets L.L.C., works at her station on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Friday, Aug. 6, 2010.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

200,000 new private sector jobs would need to be added each month to drive the unemployment rate lower. Retailers were hurt following the report as investors expected shoppers to continue to hold on to their money. J.C. Penney Co., Macy's Inc. and Target Corp. were among those that fell.

Economic data over the past three months has indicated a slowdown in growth, and investors are unsure just how much more the recovery will weaken. The disappointing jobs data magnifies worries that slowing growth could end up leading the country back into recession during the second half of the year.

The latest weak sign on the labor market brings heightened attention to the Federal Reserve's meeting next week. The Fed let several economic stimulus programs expire earlier this year such as purchasing mortgage-backed securities, and investors are now wondering whether the central bank will consider new steps to encourage lending again.

In midday trading, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 140.84, or 1.3 percent, to 10,534.14. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 15.52, or 1.4 percent, to 1,110.29, while the Nasdaq composite index

fell 28.68, or 1.3 percent, to 2,264.38.

About five stocks fell for every two that rose on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to a very light 432.9 million shares.

"The volume has just been anemic," said Andrew Frankel, president of Stuart Frankel and a trader of the floor of the exchange. "Most participants are just sitting on their hands."

Low volume can exaggerate gains and losses in the market. It also indicates that traders are just unsure of where the economy is headed.

Investors bid up Treasury prices after the employment report came out, driving interest rates lower in the bond market. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 2.83 percent from 2.91 percent late Thursday. Its yield, which helps set interest rates on mortgages and other consumer loans, is hovering near levels not seen since April 2009.

There were a couple of more upbeat figures deeper in the report that could indicate hiring might eventually pick up. Average hourly earnings rose 0.2 percent last month after falling 0.1 percent in June. Earnings were expected to rise 0.1 percent. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

New NFL rules designed to limit head injuries

By CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer

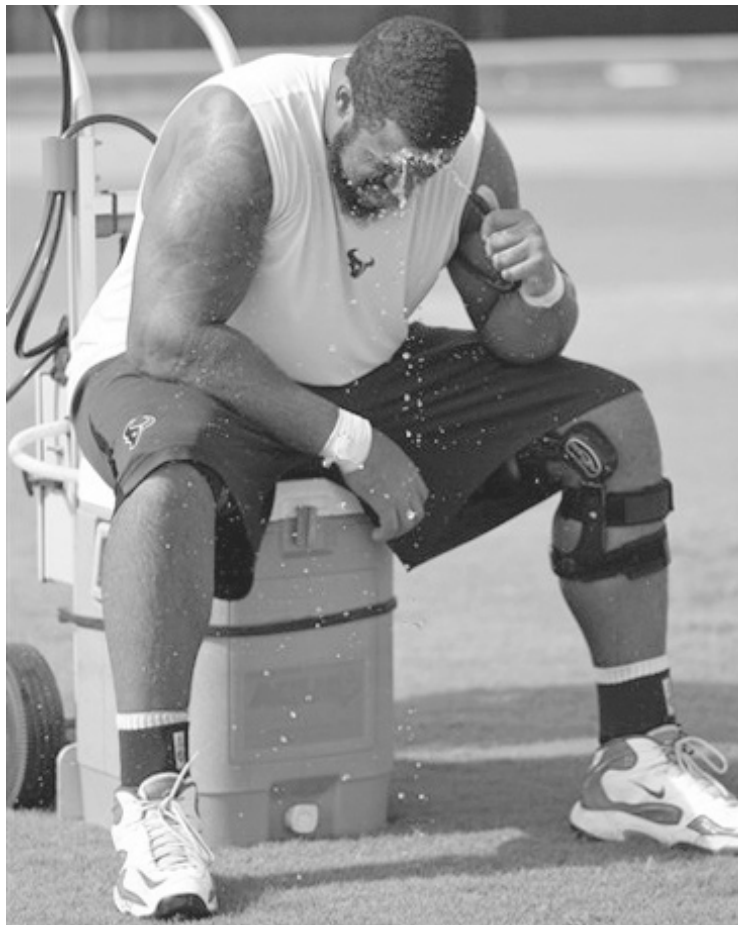
HOUSTON – NFL referees will take on more responsibility this season to protect players from helmet-first hits to their heads and necks.

The league has expanded its rules to prevent “defenseless” players from taking shots above their shoulders. Groups of officials are meeting with teams during training camp to go over the changes.

Referee Walt Anderson, also the head of officiating for the Big 12 Conference, led a meeting with the Houston Texans on Friday. He said commissioner Roger Goodell has been “very involved” in discussions with the league’s rules committee and referees to find ways to limit the number of head injuries, while also maintaining the game’s integrity.

“What the NFL has done is take a very proactive stance,” Anderson said. “Goodell is very serious about this. We’re going to be a very proactive in doing what we can to strike an appropriate balance.”

Continued on Page 15



Houston Texans tackle Duane Brown cools off after a NFL football training camp practice Thursday, Aug. 5, 2010, in Houston.

Associated Press

Trek Bicycle cooperates in investigation

DINESH RAMDE

Associated Press Writer

MILWAUKEE (AP)

— The bicycle maker that sponsors Lance Armstrong’s racing team is cooperating with federal authorities investigating the seven-time Tour de France champion and others in cycling, a company spokesman said on Friday.

Investigators requested documents from Trek Bicycle Corp. early in July and company officials complied fully, said Bill Mashek, a spokesman for the Wisconsin-based company. He declined to say what those documents were. “One of the things investigators are seeking is for us not to comment,” he said.

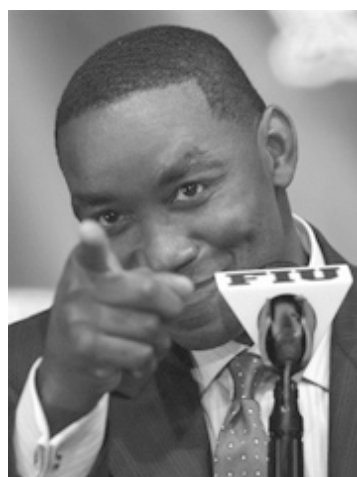
Armstrong has had a long relationship with the company, and Trek sponsors Armstrong’s RadioShack racing team.

Trek is one of the world’s largest bicycle manufacturers, making bikes for racing, commuting and mountain biking. Armstrong rode Trek bicycles in his Tour de France wins. Federal investigators in Los Angeles are looking at drug use in professional cycling and have shown interest in Armstrong since former teammate Floyd Landis alleged this spring that Armstrong and others took performance-enhancing drugs. Landis was stripped of his 2006 Tour de France title for failing a drug test.

Armstrong strongly denies the accusations and his attorneys have complained that riders are unfairly being offered cozy deals if they provide investigators with claims that implicate Armstrong.

Mashek said Trek has no plans to drop Armstrong as an advertiser. “It’s important to remember, these are just allegations,” he said.

Isiah Thomas to serve as Knicks consultant



In this April 15, 2009, file photo, Isiah Thomas points to someone in the crowd during a news conference that introducing him as the new men’s college basketball coach at Florida International University in Miami.

Associated Press

BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Isiah Thomas was rehired by the New York Knicks as a consultant on Friday, two years after he was fired as their coach and president

and embarrassed them in a sexual harassment lawsuit. “Isiah Thomas brings unique experience as a Hall of Fame player, coach, executive and owner, and we believe having him as part of our organization will be extremely beneficial to the team’s success,” Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan and team president Donnie Walsh announced jointly in a statement.

Thomas, a Hall of Famer with the Detroit Pistons, had a dismal run as team president from December 2003-April 2008, with the Knicks never winning an NBA playoff game despite often having the league’s highest payroll. He was also the coach the final two seasons, getting dismissed after a 23-59 season in 2007-08.

Despite all that, plus that

lawsuit brought by former team employee Anucha Browne Sanders that cost MSG \$11.6 million, Thomas has remained close to Dolan and Walsh, even while coaching Florida International University, a job he will keep.

In fact, even when he was fired, he didn’t even fully leave. Walsh kept him on in an unspecified role until Thomas took the FIU job. However, the hire could violate league rules that forbid university coaches from having jobs with NBA teams, which aren’t allowed to have contact with players who aren’t yet eligible for the draft.

“We are reviewing the agreement, in consultation with the Knicks, for compliance with league rules,” NBA spokesman Tim Frank said.

The Knicks said Thomas

would “assist the team’s senior management in various capacities, including player recruitment.”

Thomas said he was honored to have been asked to help during the recent free agent recruiting process, where the Knicks landed Amare Stoudemire.

“I believe this new role takes full advantage of my skill set as an evaluator of basketball talent,” he said.

Before his failures in New York, largely a result on overspending for big names that didn’t work out, Thomas was known as a good evaluator of talent. He drafted Tracy McGrady, Marcus Camby and eventual rookie of the year Damon Stoudamire in Toronto. Walsh has used him to scout in New York, sending him to Europe to see current Knicks forward Danilo Gallinari.

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Goosen takes 1-shot lead over Mickelson

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

AKRON, Ohio — Phil Mickelson is closing in on No. 1.

The first step is to make up a one-shot deficit against Retief Goosen, the 36-hole leader Friday at the Bridgestone Invitational. Looking more inevitable is Mickelson finally supplanting Tiger Woods atop the world ranking.

Goosen turned bogey into birdie by chipping in from 25 yards off the green at No. 4, sending him on his way to a 4-under 66 that gave him a one-shot lead over Mickelson and Justin Leonard (66) going into the weekend at Firestone.

Even as Goosen led another assault on par in soft conditions, Woods continued to look as ordinary as ever. The seven-time champion at Firestone hit only three fairways and stumbled to a 2-over 72 — the first time he has ever had consecutive rounds over par at this tournament — that put him 13 shots out of the lead, and five players removed from last place.

Woods had no intention of speaking to reporters, instead walking to his car and driving away.

He has been No. 1 in the world since the week before the 2005 U.S. Open, but would lose his top ranking if Mickelson were to finish in fourth place alone and Woods — who is tied for

72nd — finishes out of the top 44.

“Obviously, it would be cool,” Mickelson said. “It would be something I would love to do, being regarded as No. 1 according to the ranking. And I know that I’ve got a great opportunity this week. I know that I’m playing well, and this is my best opportunity.”

But he still has 36 holes in front of him on a course that has rewarded good shots with low scores.

Despite a bogey on the final hole, Goosen was at 7-under 133 as he tries to win his first World Golf Championship. It doesn’t figure to be easy, not so much because of Firestone, rather the number of players chasing him.

Sixteen players were separated by four shots going into the weekend.

That includes Bubba Watson (71) in the group at 5-under 135, Adam Scott (70), Lucas Glover (66) and Paul Casey (68) at 136, and Rory McIlroy (69) and Dustin Johnson (65) in the group at 137.

“Every part of your game needs to be good here, driving especially,” Goosen said. “You need to hit it on the fairway, otherwise you’re struggling.”

As Woods and Mickelson showed, that depends.

Woods, who started on the back nine, didn’t hit a fairway until the 17th hole, and it got so bad on the 14th hole that

his drive landed in a bunker on the 13th hole. He still scrambled for par and was even on the front nine, but too many errant shots caught up with him.

Mickelson wasn’t much better — he hit only six fairways — but he made the most of his chances. “I didn’t play great today. I was a little off,” Mickelson said. “I hit some bad shots, and I was able to salvage a lot of pars today.”

But he had a three-hole stretch of not making any pars, which is what makes Lefty so entertaining. His tee shot on the 14th went into the same bunker on the wrong hole that Woods visited earlier, only Mickelson tried to take it over the trees and clipped some branches. When he finally got around the green, he missed a 5-footer and took double bogey.

Mickelson followed with a 4-iron into 20 feet for birdie, and a 12-foot birdie on the 16th.

Even his last two pars were not typical. He drove it so far



Phil Mickelson hits out of a sand trap on the third hole during the second round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament at Firestone Country Club, Friday, Aug. 6, 2010, in Akron, Ohio.

Associated Press

right on the 17th that before leaving the tee, Mickelson reached into his bag for a glove and signed his name with a frown and the words, “Sorry.” He figured he had hit a fan, and he was right.

“The hazards of following me,” Mickelson told him.

He got up and down for par with a deft chip over the

bunker, then saved par on the 18th with a long bunker shot by the green that caught the top of the hill perfectly and rolled to within tap-in range. Mickelson won at Firestone in 1996 when it was the old World Series of Golf, and he had an excellent chance in 2008 when Woods had the year off with knee surgery. □

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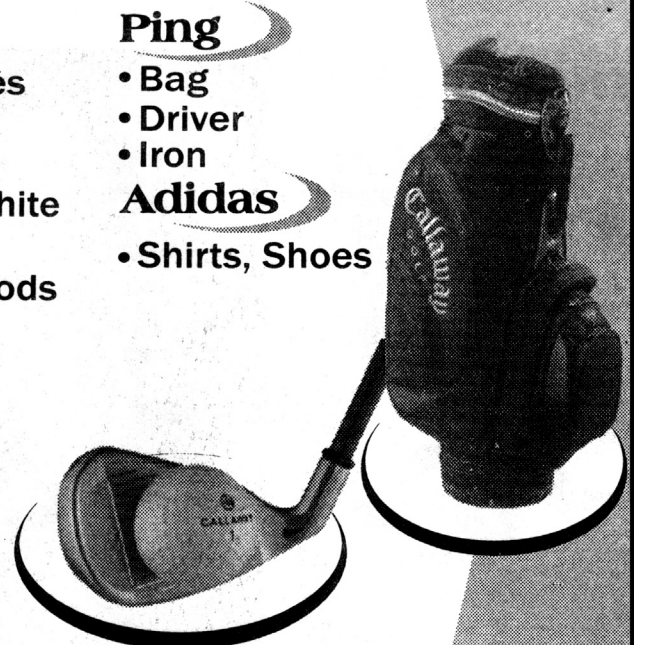
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Gay beats Bolt in Stockholm

KEITH MOORE

Associated Press Writer

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Tyson Gay beat Usain Bolt in the 100 meters at the DN Galan meet in 9.84 seconds on Friday at the same stadium where Bolt last lost a race two years ago. The American always looked in complete control against world record-holder Bolt, who was second in 9.97.

A sellout crowd in the 1912 Olympic Stadium was silent before the race between the two fastest men of all time. And the tension increased among the 20,000 spectators even further after two false starts.

The pair raced side by side in lanes four and five and Gay looked comfortable throughout, slowly pulling away while the Jamaican was straining to keep up in the highly anticipated race.

"I'm really happy with the win, even though Usain Bolt isn't in the best shape," Gay

said. "It was very important to beat someone like that for the fans and the sport.

"My body worked well today, I was excited and motivated." Bolt has ran faster this year, timing 9.82 a month ago in Lausanne, Switzerland.

"I think (today) showed that I wasn't in the best of shape," Bolt said. "I'm not unbeatable. I can be beaten and it showed today.

"This is my easy season. If you don't beat me this season it's not going to happen next season because next year is a championship year."

The sprinters both looked like they left plenty in reserve when they cruised through the heats, and so it proved for Gay when it came to the final.

Richard Thompson of Trinidad finished third in 10.10.

Asafa Powell defeated Bolt at the same meet two years ago, but pulled out of this year's race on Wednesday with a back injury, denying fans the



Tyson Gay of the U.S., left, wins the men's 100m race ahead of Jamaica's Usain Bolt at the IAAF Diamond League 'DN Galan' at the Stockholm Olympic Stadium in Stockholm, Sweden, Friday Aug. 6, 2010.

Associated Press

chance to see the first race between the world's three fastest men since Bolt stormed to a new world record of 9.58 last August at the world championships in Berlin.

In other events, Darya Klishna of Russia beat a top-class field in the women's long jump with 6.78 meters. Brittney Reese of the United States was second with 6.75, and European silver medallist Naide Gomes of Portugal third with 6.72. European champion Ineta Radevica of Latvia was down in fifth, with 6.70.

"I missed Barcelona so this was something special for me," said Klishna. "I always

like to jump with the best possible field. It gives me more motivation."

Blanka Vlasic of Croatia won an exciting high jump competition with 2.02. American Chaunte Howard-Lowe was second with 2.00 and home-crowd favorite Emma Green of Sweden was third with 1.94.

American Bershawn Jackson set a new stadium record of 47.65 in the 400 hurdles. Javier Culson of Puerto Rico was a distant second in 48.50 and Angelo Taylor of the U.S. third in 49.57.

A throw of 84.41 meters by Finland's Tero Pitkamaki

inflicted a rare javelin defeat on world, Olympic and European champion Andreas Thorkildsen of Norway, who was second with 83.63. Mattias De Zordo of Germany came third with 82.05.

Allyson Felix won the women's 200 in 22.41 in an American sweep of the podium; Shalonda Solomon was second in 22.51, and Bianca Knight third with 22.59.

Australian Sally Pearson won the women's 100 hurdles in 12.57, beating Canada's Priscilla Lopes-Schliep in 12.59 and Lolo Jones of the United States, who was third, clocking 12.70. □

WNBA Roundup

Storm rally to edge Sun, 83-82

SEATTLE (AP)—Tanisha Wright made the equalizing and go-ahead free throws with 53.9 seconds left, and Australian Lauren Jackson scored 31 points as the Seattle Storm rallied in the final 3 minutes to beat the Connecticut Sun 83-82 in the WNBA on Thursday.

Swin Cash had 21 points and Camille Little added 10 to help the league-best Storm (23-4) snap a two-game losing streak, their only skid of the season.

Tina Charles scored 23 points and Renee Montgomery added 22 for the Sun (13-14), who lost their fourth straight.

Trailing 81-76, Sue Bird made a 3-pointer from the left corner with 2:07 left and Cash hit two free throws 47 seconds later to tie the score.

Montgomery made a free throw to put Connecticut ahead 82-81 with 1:05 to go. □



Seattle Storm's Lauren Jackson shoots a free throw against the Connecticut Sun in the fourth quarter during a WNBA basketball game Thursday, Aug. 5, 2010, in Seattle. Jackson finished with a game-high 31 points and the Storm won 83-82.

Associated Press

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HEAD INJURIES*Continued from Page 12*

We do have a contact sport. At the same time, what can we do to protect the players' safety?"

The reworded rules prohibit a player from launching himself off the ground and using his helmet to strike a player in a defenseless posture in the head or neck. The old rule only applied to receivers getting hit, but now it will apply to everyone.

Anderson, one of 17 officiating crew chiefs, said referees will still closely watch receivers this season, and err toward caution when the players are caught in vulnerable positions.

In years past, Anderson said, defensive players were allowed to hit receivers in the head once the receiver touched both feet on the ground. Now, officials will give a receiver an extra split-second to "basically get into a position where he can defend himself," Anderson said.

Also new this season, when a player loses his helmet, the play is immediately whistled dead. And now, during field-goal and extra-point attempts, the defense cannot position any player on the line directly across

from the snapper, who's considered to be in a defenseless position.

The NFL has already taken measures beyond the rule book to protect players from concussions and their effects.

The league has implemented more stringent return-to-play guidelines for players who suffer them, and each team must consult with an independent neurologist whenever there is a head injury.

Anderson said medical experts laid out the effects of concussions to referees at a rules meeting earlier this year.

"It is such a big point of emphasis, and it's not a point of emphasis just to make it one," Anderson said. "There is some really serious concern about the damage that's done on impact and what happens to the brain."

Anderson said the league will monitor the effect of the new rules at season's end, then evaluate if they were effective enough in limiting injuries.

"I think it's being appropriately addressed," Anderson said. "We're always looking to get the formula just right. The game changes over time, and we have to be prepared



In this photo taken Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010, Philadelphia Eagles running back Eldra Buckley loses his helmet after a hard hit by linebacker Stewart Bradley during NFL football training camp at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa.

Associated Press

for the rules to change to keep pace, not only from a competitive standpoint, but also from a safety standpoint."

Anderson expects more rule changes related to concussions will come in future years. Some day, he envisions referees wearing

protective helmets.

"The prevalence of concussions and head injuries is on the rise," he said. "These types of rule changes related to trying to avoid contact to the head area are going to be rules that are going to be expanded, certainly not retracted." □



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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



No U.S. men will be ranked in ATP top 10 next week

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Thanks to players such as Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe, then Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi, and, lately, Andy Roddick, there always has been at least one man from the United States in tennis' top 10 since the computer rankings began in 1973.

That streak will end next week.

With Roddick sliding from No. 9 to no better than No. 12 when the new world rankings are issued on Monday, the ATP said, it will be the first time zero U.S. men are among the top 10.

"It's a big thing to say, 'Look, there's no American in the top 10.' That's certainly not something I take lightly," said Patrick McEnroe, the U.S. Davis Cup captain and general manager of player development for the U.S. Tennis Association.

"But it's not that surprising when you look at the way the game has changed and the



Andy Roddick, of the United States, hangs reacts after losing a point in the second set against Gilles Simon, of France, at the Legg Mason Tennis Classic in Washington on Thursday, Aug. 5, 2010. Simon won the match 6-3, 6-3.

global nature of the game," McEnroe added. "Players are coming from all over the world."

He spoke in an interview on Friday at the Legg Mason Tennis Classic, where the quarterfinals were contested without a U.S. man for the

first time at a tournament that dates to 1969.

Roddick lost in the third round on Thursday, when the other three remaining Americans also were beaten: John Isner, Mardy Fish and Ryan Sweeting.

"Does it affect our ability

to bring in some additional crowds? I would say so," tournament director Jeff Newman said. "From a name-recognition standpoint, for the casual fan or the non-tennis fan, we want to have Americans who are household names."

U.S. men are in their longest Grand Slam title drought in tennis' 42-year Open era: No man from the country has won a major championship since Roddick at the 2003 U.S. Open, a 27-tournament gap. The only longer span between U.S. Grand Slam titles was a 30-tournament shutout from 1955-63.

Only two active U.S. men, Roddick and Robby Ginepri, even have reached the semifinals at any major tournament.

At the Legg Mason event, essentially a tuneup for the U.S. Open, the men playing in Friday's quarterfinals were from Argentina, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, France, Serbia and

Spain.

"I don't think the U.S. has anything to panic about. There are so many good players," said Belgium's Xavier Malisse, who upset Isner on Thursday, then knocked off Wimbledon runner-up Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic, the tournament's No. 1-seeded player, to reach the semifinals.

"There are so many young kids knocking on the door, too," Malisse said, "so it's just a matter of time, I think, and good guidance."

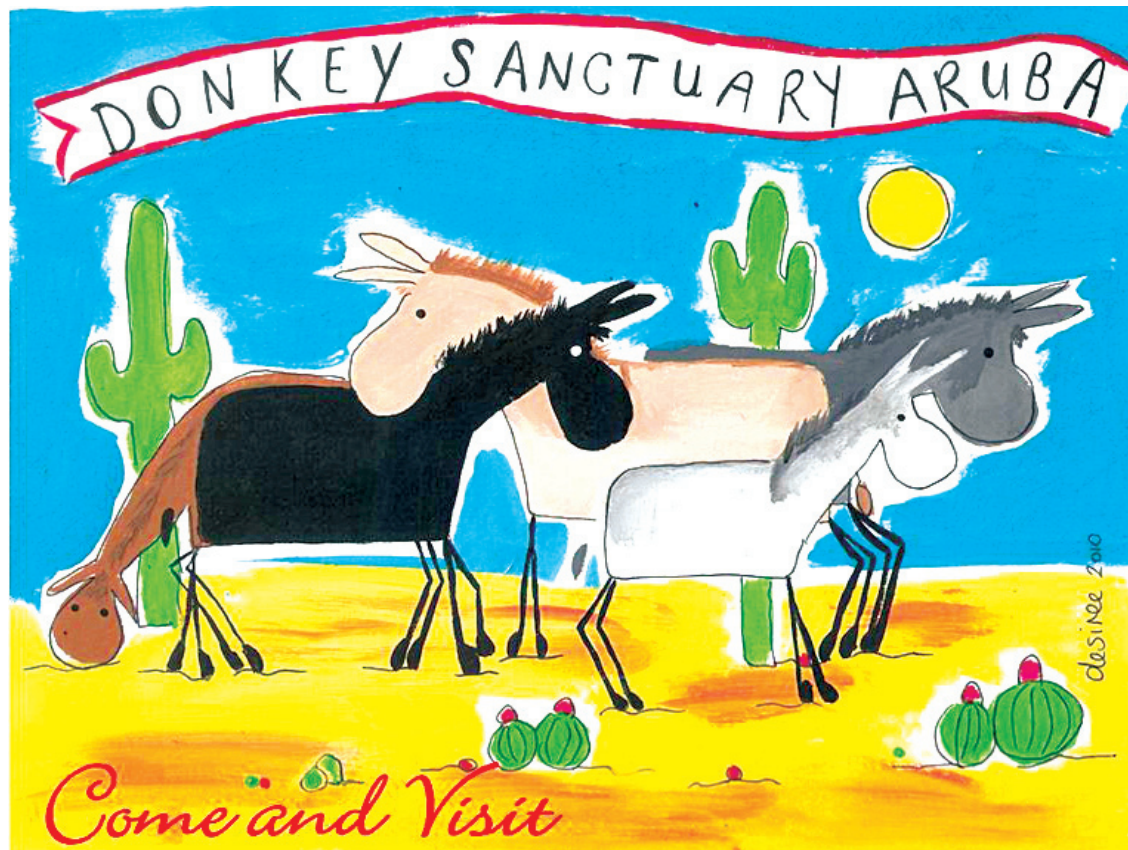
That's where McEnroe comes in.

He has overseen the USTA development program since 2008, and he is confident that help is on the way, thanks to funding that allows for 24 full-time coaches and others who work on a part-time basis. There is a training center in Boca Raton, Florida, where kids aged 13 to 18 live while working on their games, and other facilities in New York and California.

McEnroe thinks Roddick will return to the top 10 soon. And he believes Isner and Sam Querrey — who are ranked 19th and 20th this week — are on their way to making it there for the first time.

But he also knows that it's key for the future of the sport in the United States that new players are groomed.

"That's why the USTA has put more money into player development," McEnroe said. "They realize that for the continued success of the U.S. Open, and continued success of television deals, and continued success of growing the game, it's important to have our players at the top of the game." □



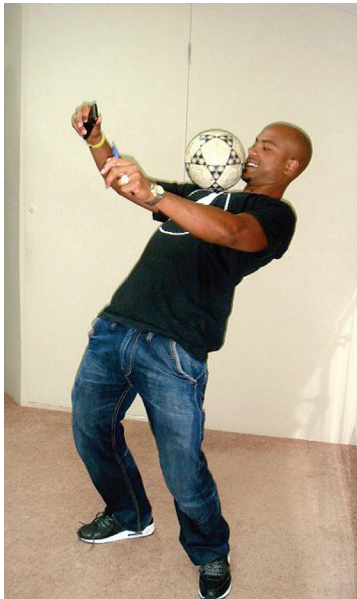
A repeat in Aruba isn't a repeat without Aqua Grill



PALM BEACH Repeat guest Sal Leggid celebrated his 70th birthday this past Thursday at local seafood savvy restaurant, Aqua Grill. "They always make us feel so welcome."

Page B7

Masters of the Game" begins next week on Aruba Dutch Pros participate in Freestyle Soccer and Panna Knock Out



ORANJESTAD – Next week, the "masters of the Game" will come to Aruba for guest appearances in the Panna Knock Out.

Page B10

(The tale of two pasts)

The Aruba Archeology Museum commemorates years past

ORANJESTAD - Archeology is the scientific study of past cultures and the way people lived based on the things they left behind. Archaeologists study past cultures by examining artifacts, objects made, used, or changed by humans. Currently there are two major types of archeology studies, which are land based or underwater. "Digging" in the past as most archeology studies do helps to find answers or provides valuable information about the past and usually also about our own ancestry and culture. Aruba has an archeological museum, which is open to the general public and is located in the centre of downtown Oranjestad. The main entrance and part of the museum is located in one of the oldest restored family homes in Aruba and this where two pasts crosses each other. This home belonged to the family Ecury, a prominent

family who lived in Aruba in the early 1920's.

The Ecury family home might have been built in 1929, which date can still be seen today imprinted on the front of the house. One of the Ecury children was Segundo Jorge Adelberto Ecury, nicknamed "Boy". He was born in Oranjestad, April 23rd 1922. Son of a very successful businessman in Aruba, Boy lived in this house with his family until he was send to boarding school in 1937 in The Netherlands. When World War II broke out The Netherlands was invaded by the Nazi's and Boy Ecury joined the underground resistance movement to fight the Germans. Unfortunately six months before Holland was liberated on May 5th, 1945, Boy Ecury and others were captured and executed the following day on December 6th, 1944.

Continued on Pages B8 & 9



Excellent Perseid Meteor Shower Expected Aug. 11-13

Every August, just when many people go vacationing in the country where skies are dark, the best-known meteor shower — the Perseid meteor shower — makes its appearance.

Read Page B6

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The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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Priscilla Lee to represent Aruba in Miss Universe Pageant

ORANJESTAD – The 22-year old Priscilla Lee is the Miss Aruba 2009 winner who will represent Aruba in the 2010 Miss Universe Pageant. Priscilla is one of the thirteen contestants of the Miss Universe pageant who stands 5 ft 11 in tall. She's from the capital city of

Aruba – Oranjestad. She's the younger sister of former Miss Aruba Zizi Lee, the first runner-up at Miss World 2001, Miss Internet Aruba 2001, and Aruba's representative in the Miss Universe pageant in 2004. Aside from winning the Miss Aruba 2009 title, Priscilla

also won the "Miss Fitness" award. Other winners in the Miss Aruba 2009 pageant are Kimberly Kuiperi and Ivana Werleman. Kimberly will be the country's representative in the Miss World 2010 while Ivana is the representative in the Miss International 2010 pageant. □



Valero continues to sell plants that don't "fit-in"

SAN NICOLAS - Valero Energy Corp. has entered into talks to sell its 195,000-barrel-a-day refinery in Paulsboro, N.J., the company said Friday in a regulatory filing.

"We have said previously that we have been exploring our options for that plant," Valero spokesman Bill Day said Friday.

He declined to say with whom Valero is talking.

"There's no specific timetable for a deal," he said, "and we have made no firm decisions on a sale. We continue to explore our options."

Since at least 2007, the San Antonio-based refiner has been executing a plan to sell "noncore" plants — those that don't fit with its strategic plan. And at times, Valero has shut unprofitable refineries to keep them from being a drag on earnings. One June 1, Valero sold its Delaware City, Del., refinery for \$220 million to PBF Energy Partners LP, a group of investors headed by Thomas O'Malley, the former CEO

of Premcor, which sold the plant, along with three others, to Valero in 2005.

There has been talk that O'Malley's firm also may be interested in the Paulsboro refinery.

About 13 months ago, Valero shuttered its unprofitable 235,000-barrel-a-day plant in Aruba in the Caribbean because it was losing tens of millions a month. But late last month, Valero said it may restart the refinery as long as economic conditions don't deteriorate.

A tax settlement the company reached with Aruba's Parliament prompted consideration of a restart, Valero said.

In July 2008, Valero sold the smallest of its plants in Krotz Springs, La., to Dallas-based independent refiner Alon USA Energy Inc. in a deal valued at \$433 million.

And in 2007, it sold its Lima, Ohio, refinery to Husky Energy Inc. of Canada for \$1.9 billion.

If the Paulsboro plant is sold, Valero would be left with a portfolio of 14 refineries. □




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2nd Edition of Aruba Rembrandt Regatta announced



PALM BEACH - On August 13, 14 and 15 the second edition of the Aruba Rembrandt Regatta will take place. 3 days of parties, 2 days of races! Join the Aruba Rembrandt Regatta for 3 spectacular Yacht Races, 5 Sunfish Races, 5 Beachcat Races, 4 Windsurf Competitions, 3 Kitesurf Competitions, Kitesurf-Freestyle Demonstrations, Swimming Competition, the all new Beach Party and much

more!

A team of about 30 volunteers, supported by the team of Cafe Rembrandt and the Dutch Marines, are preparing for this yearly event in order to make the organization during the races run smoothly. Participants from Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela, St Maarten, the Netherlands and even as far as South Africa will participate in the yacht races. The windsurfing,

kitesurfing, beach cat and sunfish competition will be spectacular since spectators can follow all the races from the beach.

To wash away all the racing stress there will be a swimming competition at the regatta site on Saturday, 5 pm.

The beach festival on Saturday promises to be a success with a live performance by Ear Plugs at 6 pm and music by Club Arashi. The bar, restaurant and



ice cream parlour will be open from 10 AM until 11 PM. On Friday and Sunday the parties with live performances will be at Cafe Rembrandt for the opening on Friday at 7 pm and the award ceremony and closing dinner on Sunday at 7 pm.

The Dutch Marines will be on site during the Regatta weekend and will have

demonstrations of their skills on Saturday and Sunday at 12:30.

Be part of this spectacular event as a participant or as a spectator. Participants and spectators can find the full regatta schedule, pictures and updates at aruba-regatta.com, for more information or registration contact eric@aruba-regatta.com ☐



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PALM BEACH - Recently, all associates and management of The Westin Resort, Aruba were invited to attend a special luncheon in the resort's Grand Palm Beach Ballroom to celebrate the accomplishments of nominees for the Brand Champion of the Month. The nominees were tapped by management for exemplifying Westin's core values, including providing personal touches and personalized services to 'surprise and delight' every guest, proactively anticipating guests' needs and making them feel special, and recognizing the special touches offered by Westin to help guests restore the body, expand the mind, and elevate



the spirit so they leave not only rested, but also renewed and enriched. The nominated associates are recognized for inspiring their co-workers and making the extra efforts to improve their departments and go above and beyond expectations. During a beautiful Indonesian lunch buffet spread produced

by the Westin's culinary and banquet teams, the following were named top of the class: From Heart of the House for June-Milagros Yarasca from Talent Resources & Development Center, for her attention to every detail, her positive attitude, and her ability to anticipate the needs of her fellow associates; from Front of the House for June-

Patrick Leppers from Sales, for his instinctive service to the many wedding events he helps coordinate; couples continually comment on how thorough, pleasant, and helpful he is to work with.

Congratulations to the winners! Pictured here are winners and nominees (Patrick Leppers not present). □

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Excellent Perseid Meteor Shower Expected Aug. 11-13

Every August, just when many people go vacationing in the country where skies are dark, the best-known meteor shower — the Perseid meteor shower — makes its appearance. The “shooting stars”

promise to deliver an excellent show this year to anyone with clear and dark skies away from urban and suburban lights.

The best time to watch for meteors will be from the late-night hours of Wednesday, Aug. 11 on through the predawn hours of Aug. 13 — two full nights and early mornings. Patient skywatchers with good

conditions could see up to 60 shooting stars an hour or more.

History of the Perseids

The event is also known as “The Tears of St. Lawrence.”

Laurentius, a Christian deacon, is said to have been martyred by the Romans in 258 AD on an iron outdoor stove. It was in the midst of this torture that Laurentius cried out:

“I am already roasted on one side and, if thou wouldst have me well cooked, it is time to turn me on the other.”

The Saint’s death was

commemorated on his feast day, Aug. 10. King Phillip II of Spain built his monastery place the “Escorial,” on the plan of the holy gridiron. And the abundance of shooting stars seen annually between approximately Aug. 8 and 14 have come to be known as St. Lawrence’s “fiery tears.”

We know today that these meteors are actually the dusty remains left behind by the comet Swift-Tuttle. Discovered back in 1862, and most recently observed in 1992, this comet takes approximately 130 years to circle the sun. With each pass, Comet Swift-Tuttle produces a debris trail along its orbit to cause the Perseids.

Every year during mid-August, when the Earth passes close to the orbit of Swift-Tuttle, the material left behind by the comet from its previous visits ram into our atmosphere at approximately 37 miles per second (60 km/second) and creates bright streaks of light in our midsummer night skies.

Excellent prospects this year

According to the best estimates, in 2010 the Earth is predicted to cut through the densest part of the Perseid stream sometime around 8:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Thursday.

The best window of opportunity to see the shower will be the late-night hours of Wednesday on through the first light of dawn on the morning of Thursday, and then again during the late-night hours of Aug. 12 into the predawn hours of Aug. 13.

The Moon, whose bright light almost totally wrecked last year’s shower, will have zero impact this year; unlike last year when it was just a few days past full,

this year it will be new on Monday, Aug. 9, meaning that there will be absolutely no interference from it at all.

Excellent!

What to expect

A very good shower will produce about one meteor per minute for a given observer under a dark country sky. Any light pollution or moonlight considerably reduces the count.

The August Perseids are among the strongest of the readily observed annual meteor showers, and at maximum activity nominally yields 90 or 100 meteors per hour. Anyone in a city or near bright suburban lights will see far fewer. [Video: Perseid] However, observers with exceptional skies often record even larger numbers. Typically during an overnight watch, the Perseids are capable of producing a number of bright, flaring and fragmenting meteors, which leave fine trains in their wake.

On the night of shower maximum, the Perseid radiant is not far from the famous “Double Star Cluster” of Perseus (hence the name, “Perseid”). Low in the northeast during the early evening, it rises higher in the sky until morning twilight ends observing. Shower members appearing close to the radiant have foreshortened tracks; those appearing farther away are often brighter, have longer tracks, and move faster across the sky.

About five to 10 of the meteors seen in any given hour will not fit this geometric pattern, and may be classified as sporadic or as members of some other (minor) shower.

How to watch

Aside from the predicted


peak hours, Perseid meteor shower activity always increases sharply in the hours after midnight. We are then looking more nearly face-on into the direction of the Earth’s motion as it orbits the sun, so the atmosphere above you scoops up meteors like the windshield of a car catching bugs. From around 2 a.m. until daybreak your local time, the Perseids promise to put on a good display, weather permitting.

Making a meteor count is as simple as lying in a lawn chair or on the ground and marking on a clipboard whenever a “shooting star” is seen. Watching for the Perseids consists of lying back, gazing up into the stars, and waiting. It is customary to watch the point halfway between the radiant (which will be rising in the northeast sky) and the zenith, though it’s perfectly all right for your gaze to wander.

Counts should be made on several nights before and after the predicted maximum, so the behavior of the shower away from its peak can be determined. Usually, good numbers of meteors should be seen on the preceding and following nights as well. The shower is generally at one-quarter strength one or two nights before and after maximum.

A few Perseids can be seen as much as two weeks before and a week after the peak. The extreme limits, in fact, are said to extend from July 17 to Aug. 24, though an occasional one may be seen almost anytime during the month of August.

As a bonus every evening now through the heart of the Perseid meteor shower, three bright planets are tightly clustered just after sunset. Venus, Mars and Saturn are easy to spot in the southwestern sky as soon as darkness falls. □



































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A repeat in Aruba isn't a repeat without Aqua Grill



PALM BEACH Repeat guest Sal Leggid celebrated his 70th birthday this past Thursday at local seafood savvy restaurant, Aqua Grill. "They always make us feel so welcome. The Aqua Grill team is staffed with gracious people, and the food is unlike any

other." Sal, joined by nearly 20 family members and friends, was seated outside of the restaurant on their back patio.

Aqua Grill's award-winning chef offers a menu of classic and contemporary dishes. The fresh seafood is prepared in a variety of



regional styles, melding local island charm with the traditions of New England, the spices of Jamaica, the zesty flavors of Italy, the mystique of Indonesia, and

beyond. In addition to a selection of authentic dishes, your seafood can also be prepared wood-grilled, broiled, poached, steamed, or pan-

fried upon request. Complimenting the menu is the island's largest raw bar and a generous wine list of over one hundred selections. □



The Aruba Archeology Museum commemorates years past

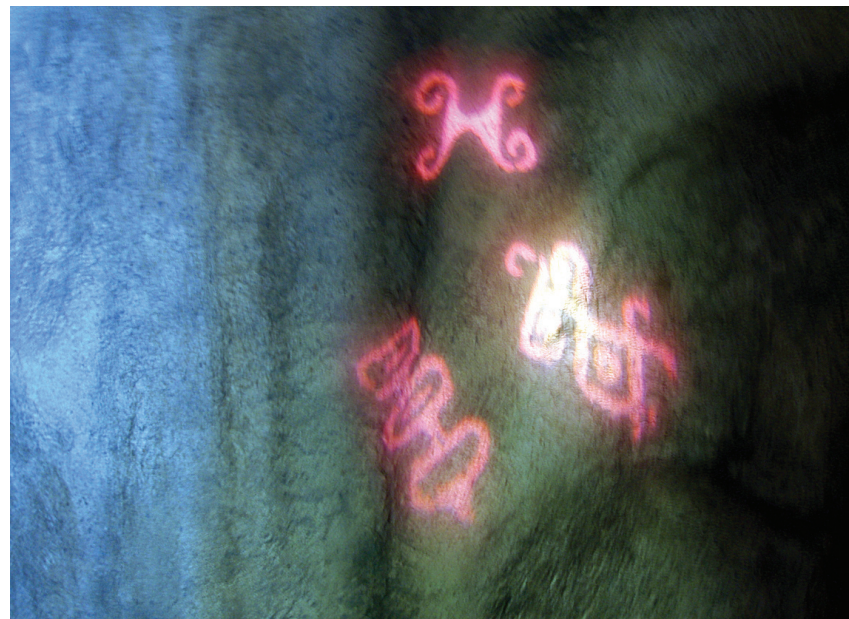


Continued from Page B1

It is said that they were betrayed and when he was interrogated, Boy Ecury never gave up any names of other resistance fighters. His father went to The Netherlands after the war and brought back his remains where he was given a proper burial with military honors. Boy Ecury was awarded a Resistance Commemorative Cross posthumously and his statue is displayed in downtown Oranjestad. The Ecury home is one of the only few monuments left on Aruba and it was also very suited when the decision was made to move and house the Archeological museum in this location.

The museum has been open to the public in this new location exactly one year and strangely enough, the museum doesn't charge an entrance fee as of yet. Aruba has a very rich cultural history, which goes back approximately 4000-5000 years back where the first documentation of visitors was found and about 2500 or so years ago the indigenous South American Indians most likely became the first inhabitants of Aruba. The museum has several sections, but you can go from one section to another without having to follow any sequence or wait in line to move to the next sections. The Ecury home was remodeled and combined with another more modern building and other older sections of the house, including a cistern used by the Ecury family to store rainwater underground.

The museum has displays and interactive corners, which can take a total of one to two hours to see depending how fast



you want to tour the museum. The museum outlines several different periods in the history of the island and what the original inhabitants did; how they lived and exhibits many artifacts from these periods. One of the biggest archeological finds in Aruba



were excavated. One of these skeletons is currently displayed in the permanent exhibit at the museum. About 1000 years ago another group of migrating Indians commonly known as Caquetios, came to Aruba from Venezuela and remained here until 1515, but were taken by the Spanish to work as slaves in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The Dutch and the British each had taken possession of Aruba for short periods of time between 1636 and 1816, which has influenced the population, its customs and language greatly. Other excavations done on the island showed the differences between the early visitors of 4000 plus years ago and the later inhabitants in terms of living customs, family units, way of live and level of development.

Documentation of burials shows that Indians were still being buried in traditional ways up to 1840 and the last records of the original Indians ends around 1880. Much of the museum includes artifacts and history of land based excavations, but under water Aruba has also many interesting archeology sites or artifacts of historical value and cultural heritage. Particularly with the influence of the Spanish, British and Dutch up to World War II, many wrecks and artifacts are still to be documented and the Archeology museum will continue to expand and will try to protect and document the history of the island. For more information or opening hours please contact, the Archaeological Museum of Aruba, two blocks east of the Oranjestad bus station, tel. 297-582-8979/297-588-9961 ☐

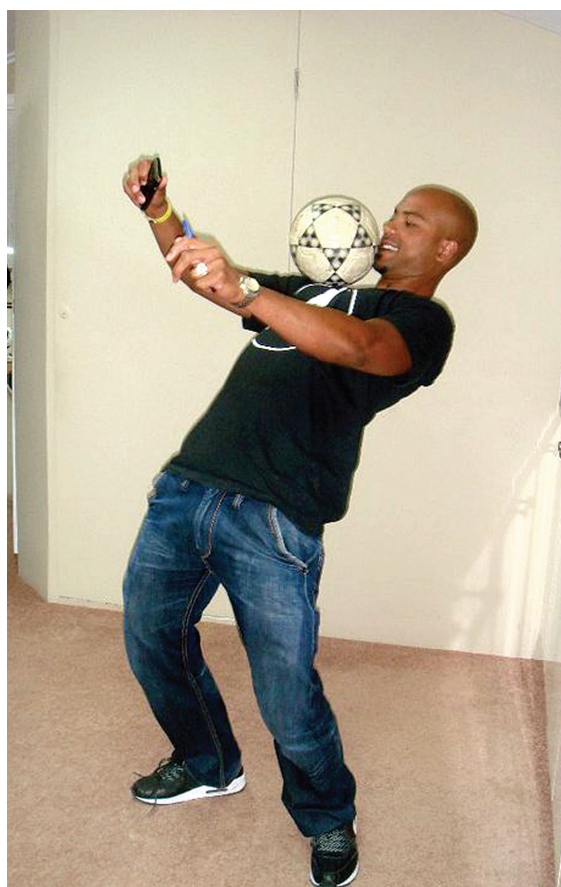


Masters of the Game” begins next week on Aruba

Dutch Pros participate in Freestyle Soccer and Panna Knock Out



ORANJESTAD – Next week, the “masters of the Game” will come to Aruba for guest appearances in the Panna Knock Out.



The event will be held August 12 – 15th with a special “Freestyle Soccer” Clinic for the youth presented by the professionals from Holland.

Not only will there be professionals from Holland present, members of the Aruban Government, and special VIP Guests will attend. □



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: “From the pier to your plate!”

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

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“fresh seafood” really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called “Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

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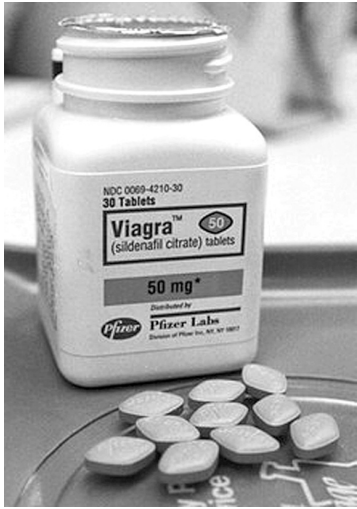
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Milwaukee teachers fight for Viagra drug coverage



FILE - This April 1999 file photo shows some Viagra at Brooks Pharmacy in Montpelier, Vt. With the district in a financial crisis and hundreds of its members facing layoffs, the Milwaukee teachers union is taking a peculiar stand: fighting to get their taxpayer-funded Viagra back.

(AP Photo/Toby Talbot)

By RYAN J. FOLEY,
Associated Press Writer
MADISON, Wis. — With the district in a financial crisis and hundreds of its members facing layoffs, the Milwaukee teachers union is taking a peculiar stand: fighting to get its taxpayer-funded Viagra back. The union has asked a judge to order the school board to again include Pfizer Inc.'s erectile dysfunction drug and similar pills in its health insurance plans.

The filing is the latest in a two-year legal campaign in which the union has argued, so far unsuccessfully, that the board's policy of excluding erectile dysfunction drugs discriminates against male employees. The union says Viagra, Cialis, Levitra and others are necessary treatment for "an exclusively gender-related condition." But lawyers for the school board say the drugs were excluded in 2005 to save money, and there

is no discrimination because they are used primarily for recreational sex and not out of medical necessity. The filing last month comes as the union, the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association, is also protesting hundreds of layoff notices issued to teachers for the coming school year. Citing a "financial crisis" caused by exploding benefit costs and revenue shortfalls, the district's outgoing superintendent proposed laying off 682 employees in April.

The district gave layoff notices to 482 teachers in June, but recalled 89 of them last month. Additional teachers may be called back, but these are still the first layoffs of Milwaukee teachers in decades.

At least one lawmaker questioned why the union is fighting for Viagra while teachers are losing their jobs. A consultant for the school board has estimated that reinstating the drug benefit would cost \$786,000 per year — the cost to keep perhaps a dozen first-year teachers employed.

State Rep. Jason Fields argues that the money could be better spent any number of ways — including saving jobs.

"You've got to be kidding me," said Fields, a Milwaukee Democrat. "The fact that is the point of contention is kind of frightening. What are our priorities? I'm all for love and peace. But almost 1 million dollars? And you go to court over this issue?"

Union spokeswoman Kris Collett declined comment. But its lawyer Barbara Quindel said the case was worth fighting despite the district's grim finances. Quindel said erectile dysfunction is associated with heart disease, prostate cancer and other conditions, and the

drugs are approved by the Food and Drug Administration and recommended by the American Urological Association.

"MTEA believes that men should not be discriminated against in receiving treatment for their medical conditions," she said. The union has argued the costs are tiny compared to the \$1.3 billion annual budget. But the school board says they are "particularly burdensome" when it is under pressure to reduce benefit costs.

That the pills — which can cost \$20 apiece without insurance — were included in the first place is somewhat unusual. Health insurer Aetna Inc., which provides one of the district's two plans, says its standard pharmacy plans exclude Viagra and other "drugs for lifestyle enhancement or performance."

Basic state employee health plans also generally don't cover those drugs, but more expensive premium plans might, said Dick Cauchi, who tracks health benefits at the National Conference of State Legislatures. Lisa Soronen, National School Boards Association senior staff attorney, also said she had never heard of a similar case or an example of a union negotiating coverage for erectile dysfunction drugs.

"If you are getting down to what drugs are covered, you are really getting in the weeds," she said, explaining most negotiations are over premiums and co-payments. Board and union negotiators reached a deal in 2002 to cover six tablets per month for erectile dysfunction drugs in health plans that insure 10,000 employees, dependents and retirees. They quickly became popular. □

Women Can Safely Get Pregnant Right After Miscarriage, Study Shows

By Steven Reinberg

Women who get pregnant within six months after having a miscarriage stand the best chance of having a healthy pregnancy with the fewest complications, Scottish researchers report.

The time that couples should wait after a miscarriage before trying to get pregnant is a matter of debate among medical experts. Some doctors say there is no reason for asking women to hold off trying to conceive, but according to the study authors, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends waiting at least six months.

The Scottish researchers said their findings suggests the WHO guidelines need to be revisited.

"Our data showed, that at least in Scottish women, there is no justification in delaying a pregnancy following an uncomplicated miscarriage," said lead researcher Dr. Sohinee Bhattacharya, a lecturer in obstetric epidemiology at the University of Aberdeen, Dugald Baird Centre for Research on Women's Health at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital in Aberdeen.

"This research will help health-care providers to counsel women regarding timing of future pregnancies and will allow couples to make informed choices based on hard evidence," Bhattacharya said.

WHO guidelines may still be applicable to women in developing countries, she added.

The report is published in the Aug. 5 online edition of the British Medical Journal.

For the study, Bhattacharya's team collected data on 30,937 women who had had miscarriages in their first pregnancy and then became pregnant again. These women were seen in Scottish hospitals between 1981 and 2000.

The researchers found that women who got pregnant again within six months were less likely to miscarry again, to have to terminate the pregnancy or to have an ectopic pregnancy compared with women who got pregnant six to 12 months after their miscarriage. (They were, however, at a higher risk of induced labor.)

These women were also less likely to have a cesarean delivery, have a premature delivery or have a low birth weight baby, the researchers noted. This association was not due to social and personal factors or by other problems in pregnancy including smoking, they added.

And delaying getting pregnant after a miscarriage carries some risks, they said.

Putting off pregnancy, particularly in developed countries, can be problematic, researchers noted. "Women over 35 are more likely to experience difficulties in conceiving, and women aged 40 years have a 30 percent chance of miscarriage, which rises to 50 percent in those aged 45 years or more. Any delay in attempting conception could further decrease their chance of a healthy baby," they wrote.

Julia Shelley, an associate professor from the School of Health and Social Development at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia, and author of an accompanying journal editorial, said the study did not conclusively answer the question of when the best time was to get pregnant after a miscarriage. □

Ethicists Charge Doctor With Trying to Prevent Homosexuality in the Womb

By Dennis Thompson

Bioethicists are accusing a noted American pediatric endocrinologist and researcher of what they claim is the first attempt to prevent homosexuality and bisexuality in the womb in a dispute that has drawn in leading major medical organizations.

The accusations revolve around the experimental prenatal treatment of female fetuses for a condition called congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH), which can result in girls being born with ambiguous genitalia.

The pediatrician, Dr. Maria New of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Florida International University, is a longtime champion of the prenatal use of a powerful steroidal medication called dexamethasone to prevent the development of CAH in the womb.

But some medical ethicists accuse New of having a

hidden agenda. New has also taken part in research that has linked CAH to sexual orientation, noting that girls with CAH were more likely to be bisexual or homosexual and more likely to be interested in traditionally "masculine" careers and hobbies.

The bioethicists believe New's desire to treat female fetuses with dexamethasone stems from a desire to "prevent" lesbianism or bisexuality and steer girls toward classically defined femininity.

"Her main goal has been to prevent ambiguous genitalia and all the things that come with it, including what she calls 'behavioral masculinization,'" charged Alice Dreger, professor of clinical medical humanities and bioethics at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. "She includes in that what she calls 'masculinized orientation.'"

Dreger described New's

work as the first instance in the history of medicine that "clinicians are actively trying to prevent homosexuality." Congenital adrenal hyperplasia remains a relatively rare condition, with about 1 in every 10,000 to 18,000 children born with the disorder, according to the U.S. National Institutes of Health. Girls and boys with CAH lack an enzyme needed by the adrenal gland to produce a pair of hormones, cortisol and aldosterone. The lack of these hormones prompts the body to produce more of the male sex hormone, androgen. This can cause girls to have genitals that look more male than female, even though their internal sex organs develop normally.

New declined to be interviewed for this article, but released a statement denying the charges.

"In my six years at Mount Sinai I have not administered the drug to any woman for the purpose of treating an unborn child," New's statement read. "Allegations that my goal is to prevent lesbianism

are completely untrue." She added that she has received approval to conduct long-term evaluation of children who earlier received treatment with prenatal dexamethasone for CAH.

But Dreger said New's statement dodges the primary accusation that she and other ethicists have laid against the doctor: that New has recommended dexamethasone for use in treating CAH without notifying parents that the drug is not approved for that use.

"We're concerned that the women don't know the drug is experimental, or that they are part of an experiment," Dreger said. "All the major medical societies have said this is very experimental and should be done in clinical trials only, if at all."

Dreger noted that the Web site of the Maria New Children's Hormone Foundation attests that she "has treated over 600 pregnant women at risk for the birth of a CAH-affected child. Treatment begins as soon as pregnancy is confirmed." The

Web site does not explain what treatment New used, only that she has been developing a treatment since 1984.

A number of major medical societies are drafting physician guidelines on the use of dexamethasone for CAH in a consensus paper prepared by the Endocrine Society and scheduled for publication in September in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism.

The guidelines will recommend that prenatal treatment of CAH continue to be regarded as an experimental procedure, noting that dexamethasone therapy can cause low birth weight and birth defects, such as cleft palate. The guidelines will be endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society, the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology, the European Society of Endocrinology, the Society for Pediatric Urology, the Androgen Excess and PCOS Society, and the CARES Foundation. □

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Scientists find sea sponges share human genes



An international team of scientists have revealed that sea sponges (pictured) share almost 70 percent of its genes with humans, including a large number typically associated with disease and cancer.

(AFP/File/Marcel Mochet)

SYDNEY (AFP) – Mankind may be descended from apes but Australian scientists have found proof of links much closer to the sea floor, with a study revealing that sea sponges share almost 70 percent of human genes.

Genetic sequencing of sea

sponges from the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef showed the ancient marine animal shared many of its genes with humans, including a large number typically associated with disease and cancer.

Lead researcher Bernard

Degnan, of the University of Queensland, said the findings "would shed light on a whole range of different things," and could lay the foundation for breakthroughs in cancer and stem cell research.

"Sponges have what's (considered) the 'Holy Grail' of stem cells," Degnan told AFP.

Exploring the genetic function of sponge stem cells could provide "deep and important connections" to the genes that influenced human stem cell biology, he said.

"(It) might actually inform the way we think about our own stem cells and how we might be able to use them in future medical applications," he said.

The study -- published in the journal "Nature" this week -- is the result of more than five years of research by an international team of scientists.

It required the extraction of "really pure DNA" from sponge embryos and a complex sequencing exercise, Degnan said. □



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Open Letter:

Why I Decided to Run for President of Haiti

Dear Reader,

My four-year-old daughter, Angelina, and my wife, Claudinette, are the angels of my life -- and I know this year has been especially trying for them, as my efforts for Haiti have taken so much more of my time since January, when the devastating earthquake nearly destroyed my home country. In fact, my concern for my family was my primary thought as I was being urged by others to seek the presidency of Haiti.

But then I came to realize that I have to make this decision for them, and especially for my daughter, as much as for myself and

my country. At age four, my daughter has already seen so much suffering in Haiti, but we've done our best to have her also witness the beauty of the country and the beautiful spirits of its people. I have always believed in the need to parent her by example, to show her that her dad is a man of action and a man of his word. I've told her throughout her life that Haiti's future lies in our hands -- including hers, as one of the young people of the country -- and I want to show her by example what I'm willing to do to make Haiti a better place. I believe that to move Haiti forward, it's going to be



Haitian musician Wyclef Jean greets supporters in Port-au-Prince on August 5. The hip-hop star has entered the race to become president of Haiti, jetting into the impoverished Caribbean country on a private plane and asking Haitians to give him "power for change."

(AFP/Thony Belizaire)

necessary to embrace the energy of its people, to unite around a common goal of moving ahead together. Taking all of these factors into consideration over the last few weeks, I have decided to run for president of Haiti.

I'm happy to have my family as my biggest supporters. They've been right there with me, helping with the programs of my NGO, Yele Haiti, over the years. Angelina and Claudinette and I were all in Haiti a few weeks before the earthquake, in fact. We went to Cite Soleil, one of the country's most dangerous neighborhoods, to give toys and backpacks to the kids. The hotel where we had stayed was destroyed by the earthquake, crumbled to the ground. We escaped death by only a few weeks -- my daughter, wife and I would have been under the rubble. Once, I told Angelina she was going to perform with me on Nickelodeon, and she asked me if she was going to get paid. I asked her, "What are you gonna do with the money?" When she said she needed it to send to the kids of Haiti, I cried tears of joy! And when some people attacked my involvement

with Yéle Haiti and tears rolled down my cheeks on Oprah, she said, "Daddy, you are too tough to cry. I've never seen you cry." I said to her, "I'm not crying for myself; I'm crying for the people of Haiti."

Some negative stories continue to be written about me. People might question my motives. Because our daughter is so young, we have shielded her from the negative stories, but when she is a little older, we will talk about those (and there might be many more to come in the next few months -- or years, even, depending on how things go in my campaign to make a brighter future for Angelina and the rest of the youth of Haiti).

I've tried to do the right thing in every part of my life, but especially when it comes to family and to Haiti. Sometimes I've been successful; other times not so much. But for years, I have been trying to help Haiti grow and prosper, and now I think I have the biggest chance I will ever have to make a difference there. I feel my calling is to serve our country in whatever way the people will have me.

I trust that Angelina understands why I feel a responsibility to my countrymen who suffer so much, because I know that my daughter's heart is as beautiful as she is. I hold Haiti and its growth and development dear to my heart; I have pledged to work for my beloved country just as I have pledged to be the best father I can be to my daughter.

My daughter and my wife, my mother, my brothers and sisters, my cousins and the rest of our family are always first in my heart. But Haiti and its people are a very close second. I hope and pray that my baby girl will understand that, and I think she will -- I can tell in her eyes and with the questions she asks that she already understands that to live for yourself is to live selfishly, but to live for others is the best sacrifice that we can make as human beings.

As the Creole saying goes, "L'union fait la force" -- "there is strength in unity." That is something I live by; I get strength from my family, and from all my supporters in Haiti.

*Sincerely,
Wyclef Jean*



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Juan Manuel Santos asume hoy presidencia de Colombia con retos sociales

BOGOTA (Reuters) - El presidente electo de Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, asume el poder hoy sábado, heredando unas deterioradas relaciones con Venezuela, una guerra contra la guerrilla y el narcotráfico, además del reto de impulsar importantes reformas fiscales y sociales.

Bajo el Gobierno del saliente mandatario Alvaro Uribe, el país sudamericano cambió su imagen de Estado fallido que servía de paraíso a rebeldes y narcotraficantes para convertirse en un importante receptor de inversión extranjera, especialmente a los sectores petrolero y minero.

Colombia, el cuarto productor de petróleo en América Latina, es un país más seguro tras la ofensiva militar que lanzó Uribe desde que asumió la presidencia en el 2002 y que obligó a los rebeldes a replegarse a lejanas montañas y selvas del tercer exportador mundial de café.

Mientras con el apoyo de Estados Unidos mantiene la presión contra las izquierdistas Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) y el Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN), que antes controlaban extensas zonas, Santos deberá asegurar un crecimiento sostenido de la economía aprovechando el auge de las materias primas.

Los analistas sostienen que el presidente entrante, un tecnócrata de 58 años que pertenece a una

de las familias más influyentes de Colombia, enfrentará desafíos fiscales y sociales, pero no puede descuidar la lucha contra la guerrilla ni contra el narcotráfico que financia a los rebeldes, provoca corrupción y distorsiona la economía.

“La guerrilla y el narcotráfico son dos problemas que, aunque están reducidos, hay que superarlos en forma definitiva”, dijo a Reuters el analista Rafael Nieto.

Colombia no ha recuperado el codiciado grado de inversión por parte de las agencias calificadoras de riesgo, mientras la mayoría de sus 44 millones de habitantes se sienten más seguros pero reclaman a Santos empleo, salud, educación, vivienda y obras de infraestructura.

La economía creció un 4,4 por ciento en el primer trimestre del 2010 pese la ruptura del comercio con Venezuela, en donde el mandatario izquierdista Hugo Chávez acusa a Colombia de planear una invasión a su país con la ayuda de Estados Unidos.

Santos, un ex ministro de Defensa, de Hacienda y de Comercio Exterior, asumirá la presidencia con el respaldo de los inversionistas y empresarios después de que en su campaña prometió dar continuidad a las políticas de libre mercado de Uribe, así como la seguridad.



Presidente electo de Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos.

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